Application Number: 10/599,020 Attorney Docket Number: 58767.000017

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 16. (Previously presented) A catalytic system comprising:
  - (a) a strongly acidic ion-exchange resin polymeric catalyst (1), and
  - (b) a (co)oligomerization additive of general formula (2)

$$R^{1}-E-R^{2} \qquad (2)$$

wherein:

E represents an element of group 16;

R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen or deuterium atom;

 $R^2$  represents a hydrogen or deuterium atom, or a group of formula - $E_{14}(R_{14})(R'_{14})(R''_{14})$ ; wherein:

 $E_{14}$  is an element of group 14;

R<sub>14</sub>, R'<sub>14</sub> and R''<sub>14</sub> represent, independently, a hydrogen atom; a deuterium atom; or a substituted or non-substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl,

wherein said substituent or substituents comprise: halos,

hydroxys, alkyls, alkoxys, cycloalkyls, cycloalkoxys, aryls, aryloxys, carboxys,

alkoxycarbonyls, cycloalkoxycarbonyls and aryloxycarbonyls or mixtures thereof;

for the (co)oligomerization of lactide and glycolide by ring opening.

17. (**Previously presented**) The catalytic system of claim 16, wherein the quantity of monomer relative to the quantity of (co)oligomerization additive ranges from 2 to 30 molar equivalents

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18. (**Previously presented**) The catalytic system of claim 16, wherein the quantity of monomer relative to the quantity of (co)oligomerization additive ranges from 4 to 10 molar equivalents.

- 19. (Previously presented) The catalytic system of claim 16, wherein the polymeric catalyst (1) comprises a styrene and divinylbenzene-based macroreticular resin with sulfonic acid functions.
- 20. (Previously presented) The catalytic system of claim 16, wherein the polymeric catalyst (1) comprises a macroreticular Amberlyst® or Dowex® resin.
- 21. (**Previously presented**) The catalytic system of claim 20, wherein the polymeric catalyst (1) comprises an Amberlyst<sup>®</sup> resin.
- 22. (Previously presented) The catalytic system of claim 16, wherein the compound of general formula (2) is such that

E represents an oxygen or sulfur atom;

R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom;

 $R^2$  represents a hydrogen atom or a group of formula  $-E_{14}(R_{14})(R'_{14})(R''_{14})$ ;

wherein  $E_{14}$  is a carbon or silicon atom;

R<sub>14</sub>, R'<sub>14</sub>, and R''<sub>14</sub> represent, independently, a hydrogen atom, or substituted or non-substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl,

wherein said substituent or substituents comprise: halos, alkyls, cycloalkyls, phenyls, naphthyls, carboxys and alkoxycarbonyls or mixtures thereof.

23. (**Previously presented**) The catalytic system of claim 16, wherein the compound of general formula (2) is such that

E represents an oxygen atom;

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R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom;

 $R^2$  represents a hydrogen atom or a group of formula - $E_{14}(R_{14})(R'_{14})(R''_{14})$ ;

wherein E<sub>14</sub> is a carbon atom;

 $R_{14}$ ,  $R'_{14}$ , and  $R''_{14}$  represent, independently, a hydrogen atom, or a substituted or non-substituted alkyl radical

wherein said substituent or substituents comprise: alkyls, carboxys, and alkoxycarbonyls, or mixtures thereof.

24. (Previously presented) The catalytic system of claim 16, wherein the compound of general formula (2) is such that

E represents an oxygen atom;

R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom;

 $R^2$  represents a hydrogen atom or a group of formula  $-E_{14}(R_{14})(R'_{14})(R''_{14})$ 

wherein E<sub>14</sub> represents a carbon atom and

R<sub>14</sub>, R'<sub>14</sub>, and R''<sub>14</sub> represent, independently, a hydrogen atom or an alkyl radical.

- 25. (Previously presented) The catalytic system of claim 16, wherein the compound of general formula (2) comprises a water or an alcohol.
- 26. (**Previously presented**) The catalytic system of claim 25, wherein the alcohol is an aliphatic alcohol.
- 27. (**Previously presented**) The catalytic system of claim 26, wherein the aliphatic alcohol is isopropanol, pentan-1-ol, dodecan-1-ol, or mixtures thereof.

28. - 32. (Withdrawn)